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Farm Broadcasters Letter

United States Department of Agriculture Office of Public Affairs Radio-TV Division Washington D.C. 20250 (202) 447-4330

Letter No. 2510

CORDS
RANCH

May 31, 1991

EMERGENCY PROVISIONS -- Secretary of Agriculture **Edward Madigan** says special provisions are available to producers who have not been able to plant crops due to natural disasters. "Drought in the West & abnormal rainfall in the Midwest and Delta areas have kept many producers from planting their crops," Madigan says. "I want producers to know all of the planting options available to them in connection with their participation in the commodity ARP and the options available to them to withdraw from the contract to participate in the ARP if they are unable to plant their intended acreage to program crops." **Contact: Bruce Merkle (202) 447-8206.**

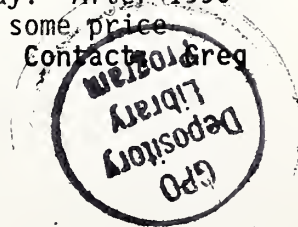
AG IN THE CLASSROOM will hold its 10th annual conference in Washington, D.C., June 8 - 11. Educators and people in agriculture & government from throughout the U.S. & Canada will meet to share ideas, study instructional materials and discuss issues facing agriculture & education. Through **Ag in the Classroom** workshops & in service training, teachers learn how to integrate agriculture into the subjects they teach. **Contact: Shirley Traxler (202) 447-5727.**

GOAT VOTE -- Mohair producers will vote June 17-28 on a referendum to decide whether to continue a market promotion & improvement program. The new program would continue to authorize deductions from producer price support payments. **Contact: Bruce Merkle (202) 447-8206.**

BROILERS TO LEAD GAINS -- During 1991, red meat & poultry production is expected to rise more than 3 percent. Poultry output, led by continued growth in broilers, should rise about 5 percent, USDA economists say, while red meat production should increase 2 percent. This would be the first year-to-year gain for red meat since 1988. Pork producers' returns are favorable & are expected to remain so for the rest of 1991. **Contact: Leland Southard (202) 219-0767.**

CATFISH UP -- During April, producers processed 31.2 million pounds of farm-raised catfish, up 1 percent from a year earlier. Producers in April also sold 15.9 million pounds of processed fish, an increase of 3 percent from April 1990. Average prices processors received during the month for whole catfish were \$1.53 per pound for ice pack & \$1.62 for frozen fish. **Contact: Ron Sitzman (202) 447-3244.**

GLOBAL GRAIN -- The first forecasts for the 1991-92 marketing year show global grain output declining slightly & nearly equaling consumption. This would leave global grain stocks at about the same level next year, USDA economists say. After 1990-91's record production & falling prices, the new forecasts signal some price strength for wheat, but some weakness for feed grains & oilseeds. **Contact: Greg Gajewski (202) 219-0313.**



WHEAT PRODUCTION PROJECTED DOWN -- USDA economists expect U.S. wheat production in 1991 to be down nearly 25 percent from 1990 to 2.07 billion bushels. Causes include reduced plantings, harvest of a smaller portion of plantings in certain key states & a forecast drop in winter wheat yields from last year's near-record.
Contact: Ed Allen (202) 219-0840.

WATER OUTLOOK BELOW AVERAGE -- Cooler than average temperatures in April improved snowpack conditions in parts of the West, but water supply conditions remain below-average for most of the region, says William Richards, chief of USDA's Soil Conservation Service. "Snowpack conditions actually improved in the northern half of the West in April, but measurements in the Southwest show that snow remains only in the higher watersheds," says Richards. The biggest improvement was in the Missouri River Basin where streamflow forecasts improved 15 to 30 percent. Streamflow volume forecasts for the Columbia River Basin remain relatively unchanged. **Contact:** Ted Kupelian (202) 447-5776.

TEA PRODUCTION A RECORD -- During 1990, global tea production was a record 2.56 million tons -- over 3 percent greater than a year earlier. This was above the previous all-time high of 2.48 million tons in 1988. The bumper 1990 crop was mainly the result of record harvests in India, Sri Lanka & Kenya. However, China's crop was down for the second consecutive year in response to poor market conditions.
Contact: E.T. Dull (202) 2974.

GENETICALLY ENGINEERED SPUDS -- Potatoes with genes borrowed from chicken eggs or moths might shrug off hazards that can ruin ordinary spuds, USDA scientists say. Plant Physiologist William R. Belknap says USDA is planting potatoes with new genes in four states -- Idaho, North Dakota, Minnesota & Maine. This is the first outdoor test most of the spuds face. **Contact:** William R. Belknap (415) 559-6072.

USSR CHANGES REACH CRITICAL POINT -- The changes taking place in the USSR have reached a critical point, USDA economists say. In the past year, the USSR has changed producer & consumer prices throughout the economy. The national government is progressively less able to coordinate fiscal & monetary policies. As a result of the many changes, forecasting Soviet ag production, consumption & trade will be more difficult in 1991 than at any time in the last decade. **Contact:** Kathryn Zeimetz (202) 219-0621.

NON-METRO/METRO CHILDREN -- A USDA demographer has found children living in metro areas are in a somewhat better financial position than children living in non-metro areas. In the new USDA report, Carolyn C. Rogers analyzes the economic well-being of children living in families with at least one parent. She compares children in non-metro areas with those in metro areas. Poverty rates for children in non-metro areas have historically been higher than those in metro areas. **Contact:** Carolyn C. Rogers (202) 219-0534.

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1773 -- The public may be concerned about the possibility that toxins in the form of pesticides & additives may be in some foods, but one expert says many foods contain natural toxins which do not seem to concern people. Brenda Curtis reports. (Weekly reel -- 13-1/2 minute documentary.)

CONSUMER TIME #1255 -- Go camping, America; western fire season could be bad; home water treatment -- is it really needed; protecting California's food bounty; new lawn care regulations proposed. (Weekly reel of 2-1/2 to 3 minute consumer features.)

AGRITAPE NEWS & FEATURES #1763 -- USDA News Highlights; one Florida county goes "whole hog" for integrated pest management; USDA cattle numbers raise controversy; a promotion to sell more U.S. wood in Japan; emergency options for farmers who can't plant. (Weekly reel of news features.)

NEWS FEATURE FIVE #1422 -- Copper & fructose; new natural fungicide; biocontrol bonanza; more effective chemigation; screening pesticides. (Weekly reel of research feature stories.)

UPCOMING ON USDA RADIO NEWSLINE -- Wed., June 5, a big turkey promotion in Washington; Fri., June 7, U.S. tobacco outlook; Tues., June 11, crop/weather outlook, U.S. crop production report, world ag supply & demand; Wed., June 12, world ag/grain, world cotton, world oilseed; Tues., June 13, ag income/finance. (These are the USDA reports we know about in advance. Our Newsline carries many stories every day which are not listed in this lineup. Please don't let the lack of a story listing keep you from calling!)

DIAL THE USDA RADIO NEWSLINES (202) 488-8358 or 8359.
Material changed at 5 p.m., EDT, each working day.

FROM OUR TELEVISION NEWS SERVICE (May 30, June 1 & 3)

FEATURES -- Lynn Wyvill reports on conservation & national forests; Will Pemble reports on pest control for weeds & insects.

ACTUALITIES -- USDA Chief Meteorologist Norton Strommen on weather & crops; USDA Economist Larry Van Meir on feed outlook; USDA Economist Michael Kurtzig on developing economies; USDA Economist Scott Sanford on cotton & wool; USDA Soil Scientist Jeri Berc on water supply in West.

UPCOMING FEATURES -- DeBoria Janifer reports on growing perennials; Pat O'Leary reports on late planting in the Corn Belt.

Available on Satellite Westar 4, Transponder 12D (Channel 23), audio 6.2 or 6.8:

THURSDAY7:30 - 7:45 p.m., EDT
SATURDAY10 - 10:45 a.m., EDT
MONDAY8 - 8:45 a.m., EDT

NOTE THIS ONE-TIME CHANGE -- On Saturday, June 22, only, from 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., the coordinates will be Westar 4, Transponder 19. This is a one-time only transponder change.

OFFMIKE

SIX-PART SERIES..."Will Dad Be On The Farm Next Year" was produced & broadcast on KMA, Shenandoah, Iowa, says **Tom Beavers**. Based on an Iowa State University study on farm & rural life, the programs noted that one in five farmers in the state plans to retire in the next five years. The series also examined the effects on schools, hospitals, churches, government & other services.

WHEAT HARVEST...has started to move north. **Bob Givens** (KGNC, Amarillo, Texas) says a wet season in the state's southern portion has delayed harvest of an average wheat crop, while further north there is little to harvest that is not irrigated. Bob says dryland crop planting will be risky this year.

CROPS...are in better shape than at this time last year, says **Charles Blake** (WIKY, Evanville, Ind.). Corn is up 10 inches and wheat is doing well. Charlie is covering a lake management seminar conducted by the Soil & Water Conservation District. He says there is much interest in the topic.

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Washington, D.C. 20250-1300

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THE ONLY MAJOR CHANGE...in crop acreage this year is a gain in cotton & reduction in soybeans, says **Dan Gordon** (Tennessee Agrinet, Nashville). Producers are staying with familiar items. But Dan has noticed the number of farmers producing tobacco is one-half the number 10 years ago, while acreage has remained constant. He says the answer is tobacco farmers are leasing out their allotments.

CORN IS COMING UP...in good condition in southeast Iowa, says **Monty Beal** (KWPC, Muscatine). Earlier the fields dried allowing producers to get the crop in, but frequent rains since have produced low-land flooding. Monty says they aren't far away from producers who are behind schedule due to wetness.

NEW STATION...is being added to the network, say **Brian Baxter & Wayne Jenkins** (Morning Agriculture Report, Indianapolis, Ind.). WGMB-TV Baton Rouge, La., has a target sign-on date of June 3.

Vic Powell
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Chief, Radio & TV Division